

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER, AUDITORS,

SCHOOL COMMITTEE, AND AGENTS

OF THE

TOWN OF BOSCAWEN

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1886.

Concord, N. H.

PRINTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION.

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TOWN OFFICERS.

Selectmen :

JOHN C. PEARSON,
SAMUEL B. CHADWICK,
WILLIAM P. ABBOTT.

Town-Clerk :

CHARLES E. CHADWICK.

Treasurer :

WILLIS G. BUXTON.

Collector of Taxes :

WILLIAM D. COLBY.

Auditors :

LUTHER GAGE,
WALTER E. SWEATT.

School Committee :

REV. FRANK HALEY,
JAMES O. ADAMS.

District No. 7.

DR. A. C. ALEXANDER,
JOHN C. PEARSON,
WILLIS G. BUXTON.

Supervisors of Check-List :

CHARLES J. ELLSWORTH,
JOSEPH G. EASTMAN,
SAMUEL CHOATE.

Police :

WILLIAM W. KILBORN,
IRA S. TOWLE,
HENRY SWEET,
CHARLES MAHER.

DETAILED STATEMENT

OF THE

EXPENDITURES OF THE TOWN OF BOSCAWEN

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1886.

State tax paid state treasurer,	\$1,636.00	
County tax paid county treasurer,	1,582.98	
	\$3,218.98	

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid as follows :

1885.		
March	14. C. E. Smith, damage on highway,	\$2.00
	Republican Press Association, reports,	30.00
April	22. F. D. Johnson, digging grave,	2.00
May	12. E. C. Eastman, books,	1.25
	Memorial Day, G. A. R.,	25.00
June	27. L. M. Chadwick, sheep killed by dogs,	14.46
	W. P. Abbott, sheep killed by dogs,	2.89
	Samuel Choate, sheep killed by dogs,	17.36
	Geo. H. Carter, bounty on grasshoppers,	1.50
	Henry Coffin, error in inventory,	26.60
	Henry Colby and others, bounty on wood-	
	chucks,	3.00
July	25. I. N. Colby, sheep killed by dogs,	19.29
	E. F. Pevare, bounty on grasshoppers,	17.50
	Harry Carter and others, bounty on wood-	
	chucks,	4.00
	W. G. Buxton, part precinct tax,	50.00

Aug.	29.	Nathan Colby, water-trough,	\$3.00
		W. P. Abbott, cash paid bounty on woodchucks, .	6.50
		Daniel P. Webster and others, bounty on woodchucks,	3.60
		Geo. Raymond, bounty on woodchucks,	4.20
Sept.	25.	E. B. Atkinson, care of old cemetery,	3.00
	26.	N. S. Webster, water-trough,	3.00
		F. D. Johnson, digging grave,	2.00
Oct.	31.	Frank E. Huntress, over tax,	6.41
		Gilman, Webster, and Flanders, rubbing river bank near North Canterbury bridge,	136.00
		C. C. Bean, coal for engine-house,	26.25
		F. L. Gerrish, bounty on grasshoppers,	16.25
		W. G. Buxton, part precinct tax,	68.75
		Royal Choate, bounty on grasshoppers,	1.50
Nov.	28.	C. R. Corning, legal services,	13.20
		L. W. Couch, ice for Penacook drinking fountain,	13.00
		F. D. Johnson, digging grave,	2.00
Dec.	26.	Dr. W. W. Richardson, return of birth,	.25
		E. W. Durgin, care town hall,	2.00
		Foote & Morse, pitcher, etc., for lobby,	1.35
		Richard Pevare, water-trough,	3.00
1886.			
Jan.	30.	W. G. Buxton, part precinct tax,	68.75
		I. K. Gage, water-trough,	3.00
		Dr. W. H. Hosmer, return of births and deaths,	1.00
Feb.	22.	J. C. Pearson, car-fare, horse-hire, etc.,	25.00
		S. B. Chadwick, care-fare, horse-hire, etc.,	7.50
		W. P. Abbott, car-fare, horse-hire, etc.,	15.00
		S. A. Ambrose, board of selectmen,	6.80
		C. E. Chadwick, copying, etc.,	10.40
	23.	S. G. Noyes, printing,	6.35
		W. G. Buxton, precinct tax in full,	67.50
		W. G. Buxton, legal services,	11.50
		W. H. Bonney, work and material, for engine-house,	4.32

Feb. 22.	W. G. Buxton, lighting lamp on engine-house,	\$12.00
	W. G. Buxton, lighting lamp on twin bridge,	17.00
	G. E. Kimball, nails, etc.,	1.30
	Miss E. P. Gill, board of selectmen,	8.80
	George Neller, pay-roll engine Co.,	250.00
	M. L. Dodge and sisters, water-trough,	3.00
	Dr. A. C. Alexander, vaccination, and return of births and deaths,	22.00
	Town of Webster, care of Beaver Dam cemetery,	2.50
	Dr. E. E. Graves, vaccination, and return of births and deaths,	19.75
	I. S. Holmes, care lower Canterbury bridge,	11.88
	W. D. Colby, discount on taxes collected prior to July 1, 1885,	252.70
	W. G. Buxton, cash paid on Tamar E. Sargent's tax, since abated,	5.45
		<hr/>
		\$1,365.61

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid as follows :

1885.

March 21.	I. N. Colby, breaking roads,	\$5.10
April 13.	T. W. Royleigh, “	3.30
May 5.	E. W. Atkinson, “	5.30
	9. S. B. Chadwick, cash paid for labor,	25.00
	30. F. L. Gerrish, labor, etc.,	21.00
	W. C. Marden, labor, etc.,	2.00
	F. L. Gerrish, lumber for railings,	22.65
	George W. Fisher, labor, etc.,	3.75
	S. B. Chadwick, cash paid for labor,	85.00
June 30.	J. G. Eastman, labor,	10.00
	W. S. Webster, labor,	14.39
	F. L. Swetland, labor and team,	37.25
	E. G. Cate, team,	3.45
	S. B. Chadwick, cash paid for labor,	90.00
	W. P. Abbott, “ “	100.00
	N. Colby and others, labor, etc.,	208.25

July	25.	S. B. Chadwick, cash paid for labor,	\$25.00
		Fred Gilman and others, labor, etc.,	67.50
		J. C. Pearson, Brockway's new street, etc.,	17.75
Aug.	29.	N. Colby, labor,	43.00
		N. Colby, labor, 1884,	55.28
		S. B. Chadwick, cash paid for labor,	25.00
		Fred. Gilman and others, labor, etc.,	133.00
Sept.	26.	W. P. Abbott, cash paid for labor,	50.00
		Fred Gilman and others, labor, etc.,	69.30
		S. B. Chadwick, cash paid for labor,	35.00
Oct.	31.	J. H. Flanders, labor,	2.00
		Burbank Bros., plank,	16.60
		I. S. Holmes, lighting lower Canterbury bridge,	17.50
		N. Colby and others, labor,	34.87
		H. F. Brown, plank, etc.,	2.94
Nov.	28.	S. B. Chadwick, cash paid for labor,	40.00
		Samuel Choate, labor,	7.50
1886.			
Jan.	30.	J. E. Rines, use of team, etc.,	9.75
Feb.	22.	J. C. Pearson, care of roads and bridges,	15.00
		S. B. Chadwick, " " "	10.00
		W. P. Abbott, " " "	10.00
		James Connor and others, labor,	25.55
		W. P. Abbott, cash paid for labor,	84.56
	23.	Fred Gilman, labor,	12.75
		L. W. Couch, care of sidewalks,	11.50
			<hr/>
			\$1,457.79

AID TO THE POOR.

Paid as follows :

1884.

COUNTY CHARGES.

March 14.	W. W. Kilborn, aid to Miss Apphia Thurston,	\$1.50
	A. G. Kimball, aid to tramps,	2.00
16.	Henry Sweet, " "	2.25
17.	J. W. Bent, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	.60

March	20.	Mrs. L. A. Silver, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	\$5.00
		Mrs. M. P. Atkinson, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	4.00
		N. A. Hodge, aid to "waif" in full,	14.85
	28.	C. W. Carter, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	6.26
		Mrs. F. J. Plumer, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	3.00
April	2.	N. Conro, aid to transient person,	10.00
	27.	Mrs. E. C. Annis, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	9.00
May	13.	Alonzo Gordon, aid to his grandson,	4.50
	23.	Mrs. E. C. Annis, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	15.00
June	27.	" " " "	13.75
		Alonzo Gordon, aid to his grandson,	4.00
July	25.	A. Flanders, aid to tramps,	.75
Aug.	4.	Mrs. E. C. Annis, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	12.50
	29.	" " " "	10.00
Sept.	25.	Alonzo Gordon, aid to his grandson,	4.00
	26.	Mrs. E. C. Annis, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	10.00
Oct.	31.	Alonzo Gordon, aid to his grandson,	4.00
		Mrs. E. C. Annis, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	12.50
Nov.	28.	" " " "	12.00
Dec.	24.	Alonzo Gordon, aid to his grandson,	4.00
	26.	Mrs. E. C. Annis, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	14.00
		Foote & Morse, aid to Susan Reiley,	6.50
1886.			
Jan.	30.	Mrs. E. C. Annis, aid to Miss A. Thurston,	21.28
		Mrs. Almeda Hall, " " "	1.50
		Miss Sarah E. Coffin, " "	.75
		John A. Coburn, coffin for Kimball child,	4.00
		S. B. Chadwick, aid to tramps,	2.20
		Henry Sweet, " "	2.00
		Charles Maher, " "	3.25
		Ira S. Towle, " "	2.00
		John A. Coburn, coffin and charges Reiley girl's child,	8.00
		Harriet S. Mason, aid to Gleason child,	97.50
		John A. Coburn, coffin and funeral charges Reiley girl,	13.50
		Brown & Foote, aid to J. Hanson family, May, 1885,	3.00

Feb. 23.	L. W. Couch and others, aid to transient family,	\$15.44
	Dr. E. E. Graves, medical attendance on Miss A. Thurston,	93.75
		<hr/> \$454.13

TOWN CHARGES.

1885.		
Dec. 26.	F. B. Holt, aid to E. Morse,	\$10.00
	J. C. Pearson, " "	5.00
1886.		
Jan. 30.	J. H. Jackman, aid to R. Ingham,	5.00
Feb. 23.	Foote & Morse, " "	23.72
	W. G. Buxton, rent, R. Ingham,	10.00
	I. K. Gage, rent, E. Morse,	6.00
		<hr/> \$59.71

SCHOOLS.

1885-'86.		
	School-money,	\$2,000.88

Paid as follows :

District No. 1.

J. H. Jackman, prudential committee,	\$240.00
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District No. 2.

George S. Watson, prudential committee,	100.15
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District No. 3.

Edgerton Raymond, prudential committee,	215.00
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District No. 4.

Charles A. Folsom, prudential committee,	85.00
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District No. 5.

Elmer E. Towne, prudential committee,	110.63
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District No. 6.

E. W. Atkinson, prudential committee,	130.10
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District No. 7.

J. C. Pearson, treasurer,	\$1,120.00
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	\$2,000.88
Rev. Frank Haley, school committee,	5.50
Hon. James O. Adams, "	33.75
Dr. A. C. Alexander, "	10.00
Willis G. Buxton, "	10.00
John C. Pearson, "	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,070.13

SCHOOL-HOUSE TAX.

1885.

Paid as follows :

Aug. 29. J. C. Pearson, treasurer Dis. No. 7,	\$500.00
E. Raymond, pru. com., Dis. No. 3,	20.00
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	\$520.00

NOTES PAID.

Paid as follows :

1885.

June 29. Gordon Burleigh, note and interest,	\$408.00
July 11. Samuel Marden, the "Shepard Phillips"	
note and interest,	511.05
Charles D. Glitten, note and interest,	572.00
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	\$1,491.05

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid as follows :

1885.

Dec. 26. Luther Gage, auditor, 1885,	\$2.00
1886.	
Feb. 23. Walter E. Sweatt, auditor, 1885,	2.00
Willis G. Buxton, treasurer, 1885,	50.00
Charles E. Chadwick, town-clerk,	35.00
William P. Abbott, selectman and overseer	
of poor,	78.00
Samuel B. Chadwick, selectman and over-	
seer of poor,	85.00

John C. Pearson, selectman and overseer of poor,	\$100.00
William D. Colby, collector of taxes, 1885,	125.00
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	\$477.00

POLICE OFFICERS.

Paid as follows :

1886.

Jan. 30. Henry Sweet,	\$13.00
Feb. 22. W. W. Kilborn,	10.00
23. Ira S. Towle,	15.00
Charles Maher,	20.00
	<hr/>
	\$58.00

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Paid as follows :

1885.

William D. Colby, collector, on list of 1884,	\$8.65
“ “ “ 1885,	92.73
W. G. Buxton, collector, 1883, on list of 1883,	1.25
	<hr/>
	\$102.63

1884.

On Mrs. D. Fellows's account :

April 1. Royal Choate, mortgage,	\$203.94
Dec. 26. Daniel Flint, care and board,	64.50
Miss A. Lizzie Lang, making dress, &c.,	2.00
W. W. Allen, dry goods,	3.00

1885.

Feb. 23. Register of deeds, recording,	.60
J. P. Sanders & Son, shoes,	1.50
Daniel Flint, care and board,	13.50

\$289.04

Paid in 1884-'85, 93.32

\$382.36

Credit guarantee, by real estate conveyed to town by deed.

RECAPITULATION.

State and county,	\$3,218.98
Miscellaneous bills,	1,365.61
Aid to the poor,	513.84
Roads and bridges,	1,457.79
Schools and school-money,	2,070.13
School-house taxes,	520.00
Notes and interest,	1,491.05
Town officers,	477.00
Police officers,	58.00
Abatement of taxes,	102.63
Mrs. D. Fellows's account,	289.04
	<hr/>
	\$11,564.07

TOWN LIABILITIES.

Notes to Charles D. Glitten,	\$2,300.00
Interest unpaid,	220.00
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	\$2,520.00

ASSETS.

Due from J. P. Hubbard, collector, 1875,	\$10.24
W. D. Colby, " 1881,	62.36
" " 1882,	296.07
W. G. Buxton, " 1883,	17.62
W. D. Colby, " 1884,	147.74
" " 1885,	1,349.24
On Mrs. D. Fellows's account,	382.36
From state bounty on grasshoppers,	36.75
Cash in hands of treasurer (including dog tax collected, \$33),	70.80
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	\$2,373.18
Balance against the town March 1, 1886,	\$146.82

JOHN C. PEARSON,
SAMUEL B. CHADWICK,
WILLIAM P. ABBOTT,

*Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor and the Highways in Boscawen
for 1885-86.*

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The undersigned, auditors of the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer for the year 1885-'86, report that they have examined the accounts, and find the receipts to have been, from March 1, 1885, to March 1, 1886, \$11,603.37; and the disbursements \$11,532.57, paid on orders drawn by the selectmen and on outstanding orders,—leaving in the hands of the treasurer a balance of cash, \$70.80, all of which are properly vouched and correctly cast.

LUTHER GAGE,
WALTER E. SWEATT,
Auditors.

March 2, 1886.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The treasurer respectfully submits his annual report of receipts and expenditures for the year ending March 1, 1886:

Cash in treasury March 1, 1885, as per last report,	\$128.87
W. D. Colby, collector of taxes in 1882,	60.00
W. G. Buxton, " " 1883,	27.64
W. D. Colby, " " 1884,	476.80
" " " 1885,	7,400.86
State of New Hampshire, railroad tax,	540.48
savings-bank tax,	1,051.77
literary fund,	141.52
woodchuck tax,	21.30
Merrimack county, aid to paupers,	454.13
Cash from selectmen,	1,300.00
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	\$11,603.37

EXPENDITURES.

Payment of outstanding orders,	\$7.00
Payment of orders drawn by the selectmen,	
from 1 to 203 inclusive,	11,525.57
Cash on hand March 1, 1886,	70.80
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	\$11,603.37

WILLIS G. BUXTON,
Treasurer.

SCHOOL REPORT.

To the Town of Boscawen :

This report will be direct, and not unreasonably extended. It will be confined as closely as possible to the schools which custom, if not law, has assigned to the supervision of an officer named by authority of the town ; and will be accompanied by such suggestions as may appear to be beneficial to our one hundred pupils.

EXPENSES.

There are in the town, outside of the "special district" at Penacook, only six schools, which, during the year past, have registered 117 different pupils, had an average membership of 80, and a daily attendance of 72. These schools have been in session an aggregate of 139 weeks, at an expense of \$880 for instruction and incidentals, without considering any special expenditures by district authority. This was the amount apportioned them by the selectmen. There may have been an unexpended balance of the preceding year, and a similar amount may now remain in the hands of prudential committees. This sum divided by 80, the average number of pupils, will make the cost \$11.00 a year to each pupil. The full expense, including school buildings and extra repairs, will not fall below \$12.00 per scholar.

THE TOWN SYSTEM.

If these 80 pupils were located on a single square mile, or even on an area four or six miles square, they could be much better instructed, and far more economically, notwithstanding the long travel, than they can possibly be under existing circumstances. Two teachers, at most three, could do all that is now required of six.

This may be regarded as an argument for the town system. It is one, and a strong one, but not one in defence of the law which

to-day goes into effect. Had the law created a town system on the principle of "equal privileges to all," abolishing "special districts," making a common expense to all sections of a town, as was originally intended, it would have been a beneficent act. But under the recent decision of the court, village districts, usually the centres of wealth, where graded schools can easily be maintained and the best facilities for education afforded, are generally exempt from the operation of the law; and in many cases the poor country districts will become less able than before to meet the educational demands made upon them. In some towns the law will operate favorably, possibly in a majority. But the people do not accept it readily; and, if it were possible, would, in many cases, refuse to organize under it. The voters of this town, particularly those directly interested in this report, do not give it a cordial approval. But it is mandatory, and must be accepted, and put to the test.

It is not for me to mark out the course to be pursued. It needs only to be said now, that no radical changes are immediately demanded. They may come, and doubtless will come, but not at once, nor without careful consideration. A "town-district" meeting will soon be held, when a "school board" is to be chosen, who will be supposed to carry out the wishes of the people, so far as justice and the public good will permit. There is no probability that more than one or two schools, if any, will be suspended, or that any new ones will be established; nor will the scholars be compelled at present to gather, at much inconvenience, at a central point. This may some time be done, but there is no reason to discommode the people to save a few dollars, or "to maintain one school that we may be proud of." A conservative course should be pursued.

What we should do is to unite all our efforts, and make each one of our schools a model in itself, by employing only competent teachers, providing convenient and healthful school-rooms, and furnishing all the requisite facilities for giving the best education our means will allow.

TEXT-BOOKS.

The schools had all commenced their first term, and been once visited by my predecessor, when the duties of superintendent were transferred. I was a stranger to the customs hitherto pre-

vailing, had never had official experience in the supervision of miscellaneous schools, and was unacquainted with the pupils, and to a large extent with their parents. There were no accessible records of what had been done in preceding years, and it was difficult to ascertain what text-books had been adopted, or how long any book or series of books had been in the schools. No change has been made in any book, except to carry out the decisions that had been already made. Those now in use, for which I can find any authority, and which, under the law, cannot now be displaced, are as follows: Swinton's Readers, 5 books; Patterson's Elements of Grammar; Harper's Geography, 2 books. The other text-books in use, with or without authority, are,—arithmetic,—Robinson's, Greenleaf's, and Hagar's; algebra,—Robinson's and Greenleaf's; history,—Barnes's; Worcester's Pronouncing Speller; book-keeping,—Mayhew's and Meservey's.

Before the opening of another term, it will become necessary to decide which of these are entitled to remain in use, and also to decide upon, if it does not appear to be already done, several other text-books, including physiology, a system of penmanship, natural history, and perhaps geometry.

REGISTERS.

We take the registers of the several schools, and, so far as we are able, compile the facts which the law requires should be presented to the town and also to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. As a rule, the registers are very imperfectly filled. By a few teachers, they are nearly correct—as near as could be expected when such an array of facts and figures is required. In a large school, a first-class teacher would need a clerk to perform the work; but many teachers “wont try,” well knowing their inability to succeed. This routine work makes a “machine” of the teacher, and requires the pupils to walk with the measured motion that becomes a toiler in a tread-mill. There is more need of a reform in this line than anywhere else in the school system.

DISTRICT NO. 1.—“THE PLAIN.”

This school commenced April 20, and continued, with two vacations, 32 weeks. Teacher for the year, Addie L. Flanders. She has had normal instruction, and long experience in teaching different schools. In this, as in others, in town and abroad, she has been successful. Her pupils have been orderly, studious, and respectful. The government the past year has been beyond criticism, and the examinations on several occasions have given assurance of substantial work. Besides the common studies, algebra, book-keeping, natural philosophy, and natural history have received attention. The pupils have been trained in free-hand drawing on the black-board and on paper; also in writing compositions, and in recitation and declamation. The specimens of map-drawing at a recent examination were excellent.

Prof. John Jackman has given lessons in vocal music weekly in this school and in No. 3, which the scholars generally appreciate.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—NORTH WATER STREET.

The school was opened May 4, under the instruction of Marian H. Seavey, who had previously taught in the district, and near it, several terms. The people and the scholars had confidence in her management, and not without good reason. She was earnest, accurate, and decided. A previous engagement prevented her continuing in the work another term. The school was in session but 9 weeks. A long vacation followed.

Miss Seavey was succeeded, Nov. 15, by Etta F. Heath, of Canterbury,—a very patient and faithful teacher. She remained 12 weeks. The children can never expect a teacher more devoted to their interest. A dull pupil was helped on in his lessons, and received the most assiduous attention. The more difficult it was for a pupil to learn, the more patient was the teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 3.—“THE GULF.”

Isabel Seavey commenced the school April 27, and, with two vacations, continued 27 weeks. She has been for three years the constant teacher in this school, and has had several engagements in other places. It will be unnecessary to tell our people that she is an excellent instructor. They have been told that often by

others, and they would know it if they ever visited her school-room. She is never idle, but gives more oral and general instruction than any teacher within our knowledge. The higher English branches have been taught, also free-hand drawing and vocal music. This school in many respects is like that in District No.

1. The studies are the same; the number and ages of the pupils correspond very nearly; the teachers belong in town;—one is a normal scholar, and the other is now in a normal course. Both have had long practice in their profession, and neither fails to win public favor.

“It is not in mortals to *command* success,
But this they do—endeavor to deserve it.”

DISTRICT No. 4.—HIGH STREET.

Annie P. Wadleigh, of Webster, opened this school,—the first she ever taught,—May 4, and, with a long vacation, closed Nov.

1. It was a hard place to which to assign a young lady ambitious to be a good instructor. She worked diligently among her half dozen boys and girls, and they made excellent progress. At times she had but a single pupil, and often only two. We never saw over five present at one session. It may seem singular, but nevertheless it is true, that, with these five boys and girls, the district committee, and two visitors, we enjoyed an hour's examination more than a similar hour in any other school.

DISTRICT No. 5.—NORTH BOSCAWEN.

Susie A. Hall commenced teaching in this district May 4, and continued 18 weeks, with a vacation at the expiration of 8 weeks. No other district was reduced to a term of instruction so brief, though No. 4 exceeded it by only a single week. When our school-money will not sustain a school one half the year, we may well inquire what shall be done to improve our condition. Miss Hall was a good scholar, and very lady-like in her bearing, but was evidently not in full health, and consequently lacked the force that characterized the majority of our teachers.

DISTRICT No. 6.—SOUTH WATER STREET.

The school commenced April 27, and continued 9 weeks, under the direction of May W. Knowles. The government was very

lax, and although the teacher had sufficient scholarship to instruct the pupils, she failed to meet the requirements of the position. Outside interests withdrew her attention from the school-room. She had taught elsewhere, and was commended for her qualifications.

A second term was commenced Nov. 2, and closed Jan. 29, by Gustie J. Stone, who formerly taught in the district, and had given evidence of her preparation for the work. The term was 13 weeks long, and was very profitable.

The final examination was attended by many of the citizens, and was one of interest. The rhetorical exercises were well given and well received. Prizes were offered by a resident of the district for the most improvement in grammar. The class consisted of four girls. The prizes were only two, but additions were made equal to the number of the pupils. The members of the class were Minnie Atkinson, Roberta Atkinson, Eva Silver, and Alice Hardy.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—PENACOOK.

This district is organized under the Somersworth act, and has a board of education, whose report accompanies these pages.

THE LOST DISTRICT, NO. 8.—"CORNHILL."

We read of the "lost Pleiad," and have heard of the "lost arts," and the "lost cause," but just now we recall the fact of a lost school-district. It has yet "a local habitation and a name" on the western border of the town. The natural elements of the district are unmoved; even the school-house appears to be in good condition; but the life and soul of "Cornhill"—the boys and girls—are gone; not a scholar remains; and only a single family—only one man and one woman—can vote in school affairs.

It has been reported that some good spirit has, with great prudence, shingled the house the past season.

INFORMATION SOUGHT.

In the registers is given a series of questions in relation to furniture and supplies for the school-room, and the experience and qualification of teachers. To these replies are expected.

In the list first comes the item, "Name the superintendent."

It is well to have the name on record, but it is vastly more important to know his qualifications for the place. To be sure, he ought to be able to read and spell, but there are those who cannot do either correctly. Did he or she—for women have a right to aspire to such a position—did he ever attend an ungraded school, or teach one at \$10 a month and “board round”? If so, he has laid the foundation of the education requisite for the office. Has he a love for the work? Can he come down or go up to the mental level of a class in monosyllables or primary geography, as well as walk in the paths of literature and science? Then, with a fair degree of discretion, he may succeed. But the mere scholar, with unapproachable dignity and words of “learned length,” was made for another sphere of action.

But there are other questions, too many to be recited here. Have the teachers attended a normal school? Our reply is, only one, though another is now in a normal school in Connecticut. Have you globes, clocks, reference books, a library, adequate blackboards, and proper ventilation? We are compelled to answer in the negative, with only now and then an exception. These are pertinent questions, and should receive the consideration of the voters of the town-district at its coming meeting.

THE ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS.

The average attendance of pupils is very good,—better, we believe, than can be found in country districts generally. In some cases the daily attendancé is over ninety per cent. of the number belonging to the school. We find the average number of members recorded, 17, 10, 18, 4, 14, 17, and the corresponding daily average to be 16, 9, 17, 3, 12, 15. The constant attendance for a term, and often for a year, embraces a large number of names, as will be seen by the following record for a single term:

DISTRICT No. 1.

Ida James,
Lottie Brown,
Mabel Carter,
Hattie Colby,
Mamie Green,

Alice Chase,
Annie Perry,
Mabel Perry,
Agnes Pillsbury,
Herbert Brown,

Walter Carter,
 Charlie Carter,
 David Perry,

Robert Graves,
 Frank Fellows,
 Benjamin Smart.

DISTRICT No. 2.

Susan W. Atkinson,
 Alice M. George,
 Cora E. Hale,
 Hannah L. Plumer,
 Charlotte M. Plumer,
 Sarah A. Plumer,
 Addie M. Woods,
 Inez E. Plumer,

Fred G. Hale,
 Geo. B. Plumer.

DISTRICT No. 3.

Alice G. Adams,
 Ada W. Dowlin,
 Nettie M. Sargent,
 Jessie P. Raymond,
 Mary Rayno,
 Mabel H. Colby,
 Edith S. Durgin,
 Lucy B. Hoyt,
 Lucy M. Raymond,

Lewis W. Adams,
 George A. Raymond,
 Henry D. Colby,
 Frank H. Durgin,
 Elmer Rayno,
 C. M. Bowles.

DISTRICT No. 4.

Jennie O. Hodge.

DISTRICT 5.

Walter Eastman,
 Fred Rowe,

Emanuel Sebra,
 Robert Simonds.

DISTRICT No. 6.

Alice Hardy,
 Mattie Hardy,
 Minnie Atkinson,

George Fisher,
 Winnifred Fisher,
 Levi Fisher.

Total not absent for a term,

50

SCHOLARS AND STUDIES.

The law requires that a report shall be made at the annual meeting of the town of the number of scholars pursuing each study. That requirement is met by the accompanying table, so far as the registers indicate :

DISTRICT No. 1.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.	Year.*
Reading,	17	15	23	
Spelling,	17	15	23	
Penmanship,	15	15	23	
Arithmetic,	13	15	21	
Geography,	9	8	11	
Grammar,	4	6	5	
History,	0	1	3	
Composition,	10	10	13	
Drawing,	0	12	23	
Vocal music,	15	15	22	
Physiology,	8	8	6	
Book-keeping,	1	0	2	
Algebra,	0	3	5	
Philosophy,	1	1	0	

DISTRICT No. 2.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	Year.
Reading,	14	12	16
Spelling,	14	12	16
Penmanship,	8	12	15
Arithmetic,	11	12	15
Geography,	6	6	8
Grammar,	2	2	2
Composition,	0	2	0

DISTRICT No. 3.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.	Year.*
Reading,	18	20	20	
Spelling,	18	20	20	
Penmanship,	18	20	20	

* Record not given.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	3d Term.	Year.*
Arithmetic,	18	20	18	
Geography,	12	14	18	
Grammar,	12	14	12	
Composition,	9	10	10	
Drawing,	12	14	12	
Vocal music,	18	20	20	
Physiology,	10	0	0	
Book-keeping,	0	4	5	
Algebra,	1	1	3	

DISTRICT No. 4.

	1st Term.
Reading,	5
Spelling,	4
Penmanship,	3
Arithmetic,	5
Geography,	3
Grammar,	1
Composition,	2
Physiology, oral,	1

The second term and year column not filled by teacher.

DISTRICT No. 5.

	1st Term.	2d Term.	Year.*
Reading,	15	14	
Spelling,	15	14	
Penmanship,	5	5	
Arithmetic,	10	9	
Geography,	4	3	
Grammar,	4	2	
History,	0	1	
Composition,	6	4	
Physiology,	3	0	
Algebra,	1	1	
Philosophy,	0	1	

*Not given in register.

DISTRICT No. 6.

2d Term.

Reading,	17
Spelling,	17
Penmanship,	13
Arithmetic,	16
Geography,	10
Grammar,	7
Composition,	2
Physiology,	7
Algebra,	2
Philosophy,	2

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

DISTRICT.	Weeks of school.	Whole number of pupils.	Average number belonging.	Average daily attendance.	Under 5 years old.	Over 5 years old.	Between 5 and 15 years old.	Under 6 years old.	Over 6 years old.	Between 6 and 16 years old.	Visits by superintendent.	Visits by prudential committee.	Visits by citizens, &c.	Wages of teacher per month.
No. 1.....	32	27	17	16	....	9	18	....	7	20	6	2	33	\$28.00
No. 2.....	21	16	10	9	1	2	13	1	2	13	6	4	56	20.00
No. 3.....	27	26	18	17	....	4	14	1	2	15	6	3	36	28.50
No. 4.....	19	8	4	3	....	1	6	....	1	7	4	1	12	18.00
No. 5.....	18	19	14	12	1	2	16	2	1	16	5	....	15	22.00
No. 6.....	22	20	17	15	....	4	18	....	3	18	6	1	54	22.00
Total.....	139	116	80	72	2	22	95	4	16	89	33	11	206	\$23.68 Av'ge.

CONCLUDING WORDS.

The prudential committee in each district has taken pains to aid me in the duties of the office, and, all, with one exception, have visited the schools at the examinations, or when occasion has required. They are as follows:

District No. 1—Joseph H. Jackman.

“ No. 2—George S. Watson.

“ No. 3—Edgerton Raymond.

“ No. 4—Charles A. Folsom.

District No. 5—Elma E. Towne.

“ No. 6—Edmund W. Atkinson.

In the history of Boscawen, on page 135, may be found this record under date of 1789:

“The town voted to dispose of a portion of its school lands and keep the fund intact for educational purposes.

“The lots sold as follows:

House lot,	\$124
Intervale lot,	210
80 acre lot,	453
	<hr/>
	\$787

“Two other lots—one of 100 acres and one of 45 acres—were reserved. The amount was placed on interest, loaned to the town, and has so remained to the present time, the interest being annually appropriated to the support of schools.”

This is an interesting item in the history. It would have been more satisfactory if the historian had told us whether more than one set of lots were sold. It would seem the sale was not limited to one house lot, one intervale lot, and a single 80-acre lot. One series is quoted to show the value at that time. The questions arise, What was the full amount received? what became of the lots reserved? and does the town now pay interest for the benefit of the public schools? We have no means of knowing, nor have we time to investigate.

It would create a new interest in education among us if we could secure a complete history of the schools from the date of the first one, taught by Rev. Mr. Varney in 1761, to the present day—just one hundred and twenty-five years!

Let us invite the sons and daughters of our town back to the old homestead, to unite with us in celebrating the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the first public school in the town.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES O. ADAMS,
Superintendent of Schools.

Boscawen, March 1, 1886.

REPORT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION.

DISTRICT No. 7.

The past year has been an eventful one in the history of this district, and freighted with much good.

You are to be congratulated, that, with so little burden, you have been able to give such excellent school accommodations. You have brought about this radical change without occasioning friction or encountering opposition. Thus far the citizens of this district have done all that is possible to make a pleasant and profitable school; but there are other duties for each parent to perform,—a personal care, and personal attention to the best interest of the school. Be not too ready to accept the complaints and criticisms that may arise from various unworthy motives, but visit the school, frequently, and ascertain their true condition; and ever place yourself, and let your influence be felt, upon that side which builds up and sustains,—not the side that would destroy. For without the sympathy and hearty coöperation of the parents, although the teacher may possess unsurpassed ability for teaching, the school cannot be a success. See to it further, that the children are punctual and constant in their attendance. To this end we would recommend the appointment of a truant officer.

There has been a marked improvement in all material things during the past twenty years, but perhaps none greater than that made in the methods and objects of teaching in our common schools. We do not now consider so much the number of pages that may have been passed over, as the mental, moral, and physical discipline obtained, whereby the student is made abler and stronger to meet the exigencies of life. We care not so much for the ability shown to answer, or repeat, parrot-like, long rules or tables, without any idea or comprehension of what it all means, but, rather, the development of those faculties and understanding,

